

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 - 39 (canceled).

Claim 40 (previously presented). A cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a handle having a substantially hollow tubular body with a proximal end and a distal end;

actuation means operably coupled to the tubular body, said actuation means including a plunger mechanism slidably disposed within said tubular body and a collar concentrically disposed around said tubular body near said proximal end of said tubular body, said collar being slidable between a first position and a second position and coupled to the plunger mechanism; and

a cleaning head detachably coupled to said distal end of said tubular body;

wherein sliding the collar from said first position towards said second position actuates said plunger mechanism to eject the cleaning head from said distal end of said tubular body.

Claim 41 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said plunger mechanism disposed within the tubular body comprises a driver, a drivable element disposed adjacent to the driver, and a plunger head

engaged with the distal end of the drivable element, said driver being operably coupled to the collar and the drivable element.

Claim 42 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 41, wherein sliding the collar towards the second position causes the plunger head to become substantially flush with the distal end of the tubular body.

Claim 43 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the tubular body comprises a pair of longitudinal slots and the driver comprises a post extending through the longitudinal slots for engagement with the collar.

Claim 44 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus according to ~~claim 40~~ claim 41, wherein said handle comprises a receiver portion at the distal end of the tubular body to temporarily receive the detachable cleaning head, and said plunger head is disposed within the receiver portion, wherein actuation of the plunger head ejects the cleaning head from the receiver portion.

Claim 45 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the receiver portion has at least one rib configured to engage the cleaning head.

Claim 46 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 44, wherein at least one O-ring configured to prevent fluid flow into the tubular body is arranged between the plunger head and the receiver portion.

Claim 47 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the tubular body comprises a plurality of guides for receiving and guiding the plunger mechanism.

Claim 48 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the tubular body comprises at least two axially disposed sections.

Claim 49 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said cleaning head comprises a plurality of bristles having distal ends collectively forming a cleaning surface and a retainer securing the proximal ends of the plurality of bristles.

Claim 50 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the retainer is a sleeve.

Claim 51 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the plurality of bristles are arranged in a substantially spiral configuration.

Claim 52 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the cleaning surface is concave.

Claim 53 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the cleaning head comprises biodegradable materials and is flushable.

Claim 54 (currently amended). A cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a handle having a substantially hollow tubular body with a proximal end and a distal end, said tubular body comprising axially disposed a proximal section and a distal section;

actuation means operably coupled to the tubular body, said actuation means including a plunger mechanism slidably disposed within the proximal section and the distal section of the tubular body, said plunger mechanism being slidable between a first position and a second position and said plunger mechanism including a driver disposed within the proximal section of the tubular body, a drivable element disposed adjacent to the driver within the distal section of the tubular body, a plunger head engaged with the distal end of the drivable element, said driver being operably coupled to the drivable element, and a collar concentrically disposed around the proximal section of the tubular body near the proximal end, said collar being slidable between a first position and a second position and coupled to the driver, a spring concentrically disposed around a portion of the drivable element, and a cap engaged with the proximal end of the drivable element and disposed adjacent to the spring;
and

a cleaning head detachably coupled to the distal end of the tubular body;

wherein sliding the plunger mechanism from the first position towards the second position ejects the cleaning head from the distal end of the tubular body.

Claim 55 - 56 (canceled).

Claim 57 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus according to ~~claim 56~~ claim 54, wherein the proximal section of the tubular body comprises a pair of longitudinal slots and the driver comprises a post extending through the longitudinal slots for engagement with the collar.

Claim 58 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus according to ~~claim 55~~ claim 54, wherein said handle comprises a receiver portion at the distal end of the distal section of the tubular body to temporarily receive the detachable cleaning head, and said plunger head is disposed within the receiver portion, wherein actuation of the plunger head ejects the cleaning head from the receiver portion.

Claim 59 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the receiver portion has at least one rib configured to engage the cleaning head.

Claim 60 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 58, wherein at least one O-ring configured to prevent fluid flow into the tubular body is arranged between the plunger head and the receiver portion.

Claim 61 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 54, wherein the distal and the proximal sections of the tubular body comprise a plurality of guides for receiving and guiding the plunger mechanism.

Claim 62 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 54, wherein said cleaning head comprises a plurality of bristles having distal ends

collectively forming a cleaning surface and a retainer securing the proximal ends of the plurality of bristles.

Claim 63 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the retainer is a sleeve.

Claim 64 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the plurality of bristles are arranged in a substantially spiral configuration.

Claim 65 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the cleaning surface is concave.

Claim 66 (previously presented). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the cleaning head comprises biodegradable materials and is flushable.